REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 21, 2002. Claims 124-136 are pending in this application. Claims 124 and 134-136, which are the independent claims, have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 124-136 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Office Action asserts that the recitation ". . . wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight ranges are definable independently for each outline point (emphasis added)" is not described in the specification.

Applicant notes that independent Claims 124 and 134-136 have been amended to delete the recitation "wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and. . . ." In addition, Applicant notes that, in regard to the claim amendment adding the recitation "coordinate values of the outline point," the information stored by the storage means is shown in Figure 24, and the coordinate values of the outline point are stored in the "X" and "Y" fields. More specifically, the vector data are stored in the "VEC-X1," "VEC-X2," "VEC-Y1," and "VEC-Y2" fields. The weight value at which the vector data change is stored in the "FLAG 5" and "FLAG 6" fields. The acquiring unit corresponds to S2403 and S2408 as shown in Figure 25. The calculation unit corresponds to S2405 and S2410 as shown in Figure 25. (It is to be understood, of course, that the scope of independent Claims 124 and 134-136 is not limited to the details of this embodiment, which is referred

to only for purposes of illustration.) Applicant believes that the rejection under Section 112, first paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

124. (Twice Amended) An outline forming apparatus, comprising:

a storage medium for storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for [at least one] each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change; [wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and]

an acquiring unit, arranged for acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value[,] from said storage medium based on the weight value at which the vector data change, for each outline point; and

a calculation unit, arranged for calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired by said acquiring unit.

134. (Twice Amended) An outline forming method comprising the steps of:

[storing] accessing a memory which stores information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for [at least one] each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of

weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change; [wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and]

acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value based on the weight value at which the vector data change, for each outline point, by accessing the memory; and

calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in [said] the acquiring step.

135. (Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium comprising a computer program for forming an outline, the computer program comprising code for performing the steps of:

storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for [at least one] each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change; [wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and]

acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value based on the weight value at which the vector data change for each outline point; and

calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

136. (Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for forming an outline, the computer program comprising code for performing the steps of:

storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for [at least one] each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change; [wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and]

acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value based on the weight value at which the vector data change for each outline point; and

calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.